

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General to leave for Europe at end of week for working visits to Paris and Geneva and official visit to the Netherlands; to visit International Tribunal on war crimes committed in former Yugoslavia, International Court of Justice and Permanent Court of Arbitration.

+ Special Representative Howe, in New Year Report to Somali people, says instability threatens flow of aid to Somalia; urges Somalis to complete formation of Transitional National Council and selection of interim Central Administration.

+ Secretary-General appoints Wally N'Dow, Gambian national, as Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Habitat effective 15 February.

+ UNPROFOR Force Commander condemns detention yesterday of Canadian peace-keepers by Croatian soldiers in Medak pocket.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will leave Headquarters at the end of this week for Europe, where he will undertake working visits to Paris and Geneva, and an official visit to the Netherlands, a United Nations spokesman said today. In Paris, the Secretary-General will address the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly, and meet with the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the French Senate. In Geneva, he will attend an extraordinary informal meeting of his Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

The spokesman noted that the next formal round of talks on the situation in the former Yugoslavia will resume in Geneva on 18 January, during the Secretary-General's stay. The Secretary-General will follow developments closely, and will remain in close contact with Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

The Secretary-General will then begin an official visit to the Netherlands at the invitation of its Government, during which he will confer

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with Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, and meet both houses of the Dutch Parliament. While in the Hague, the Secretary-General will visit the International Tribunal established to try persons charged with human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia. He will also visit the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which was recently granted observer status at the United Nations by the General Assembly.

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Jonathan Howe, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, has warned that the aid that country needs will only come with stability. In a New Year Report addressed to the Somali people, he said Somalia could not achieve development without reconciliation at the national political level and an end to violence, looting and banditry. The international community had emphasized the need for stability at the Fourth Humanitarian Conference held recently in Addis Ababa; investment capital from the private sector was even more averse to risk, and instability delayed the possibility of generating employment and prosperity.

Admiral Howe stressed that while the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) would continue to help ensure stability in Somalia within its mandate, success depended fundamentally on the Somali people. It was time for them to complete the formation of the Transitional National Council and the selection of the interim Central Administration, a body in which all sectors of the community would participate. He noted that some areas had made progress through the control of clan conflict and the suppression of banditry, aided by the growing Somali Police Force. "Unfortunately," he went on to say, "Somalis continue to kill each other, adding to the national tragedy and creating more sorrow."

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint Wally N'Dow, a national of the Gambia, as Assistant Secretary-General, effective 15 February, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. N'Dow will act as Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). He is currently serving as Resident Coordinator in Tanzania.

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General Jean Cot, Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), has condemned an incident yesterday in which Croatian soldiers disarmed and detained four Canadian peace-keepers on a routine patrol in the Medak pocket in Sector South. The peace-keepers, who had already obtained routine clearance to cross Croatian lines, were released after negotiations between the patrol commander and the local Croatian commander.

General Cot demanded a thorough inquiry by the Croatian authorities into the incident, which he described as "outrageous", and sought assurances that it would not be repeated.

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